

**RACIAL HARMONY FORUM  
MEETING SUMMARY  
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2002  
STOCKTON CIVIC AUDITORIUM  
525 NORTH CENTER STREET  
STOCKTON CALIFORNIA**

**Vision Statement**

"Strengthening our diverse community through commitment to racial harmony, human dignity, equal opportunity, and justice"

**Core Values**

- Racial harmony
- Human dignity
- Equal opportunity
- Justice

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bishop Stephen Blaire, Diocese of Stockton  
Fire Chief Gary Gillis  
Reverend Bob Hailey, Unity Southern Baptist Church  
Denise Irwin, representing Rich Wentworth, Supt. San Joaquin County Schools  
Dennis Lee, President, Asian-American Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Lewis, City Manager  
Janet Lilly, President, African-American Chamber of Commerce  
Scott Mitchell, Youth Commissioner  
Bill Murray, Judge  
Gary Podesto, Mayor  
John Rieckewald, Superintendent of Manteca Unified School District  
Jose Rivera, Administrator, Kaiser Permanente  
Christine Tien, Deputy City Manager

**Others Present**

Irv Jefferson, Facilitator, Lodi Unified School District  
Florence Low – City Manager Staff  
Josephine Weber – Recorder

The forum members met this date to consolidate the Goals and Commitment statements. The following statements were selected.

**Goals and Commitments**

**Employment**

1. Cultivate recruit and hire employees and managers to reflect the racial makeup of the community.
2. Create, maintain, and expand internship and employment opportunities for local youths.

**Community**

1. Promote an annual community wide racial harmony forum.
2. Promote and celebrate cultural events, awareness, and activities at community events.
3. Encourage ecumenical and inter-religious interaction within the faith communities.
4. Expand the number of safe youth and safe neighborhood activities.

#### Education

1. Promote and improve opportunities and access to higher education for young people of all racial backgrounds.
2. Eliminate the gaps in academic achievement among students.
3. Develop and support community leaders and positive role models to take the lead in promoting racial harmony.
4. Increase and improve tolerance and appreciation of cultural diversity through education starting at early childhood.
5. Eliminate stereotypes by accepting and embracing differences among people and cultures through competency cultural training.
6. Create a regular series in The Record, written by the Racial Harmony Task Force.

It was the consensus of the Forum members to hold an annual community forum. Three months prior to the meeting, members will meet in an informal session to set the agenda. Mayor Podesto suggested that a keynote speaker be selected and also that break-out sessions be held.

The Community Forum meeting will be held on October 9 at 6:00 p.m.